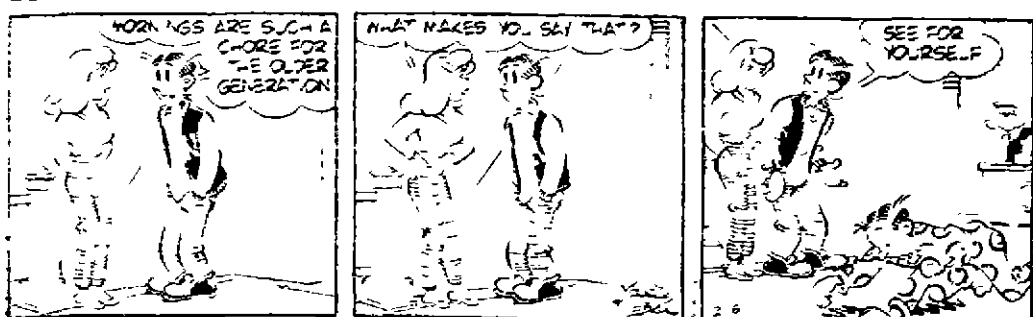


BLONDIE



SALLY FORTH



THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN



9 CHICKWEED LANE



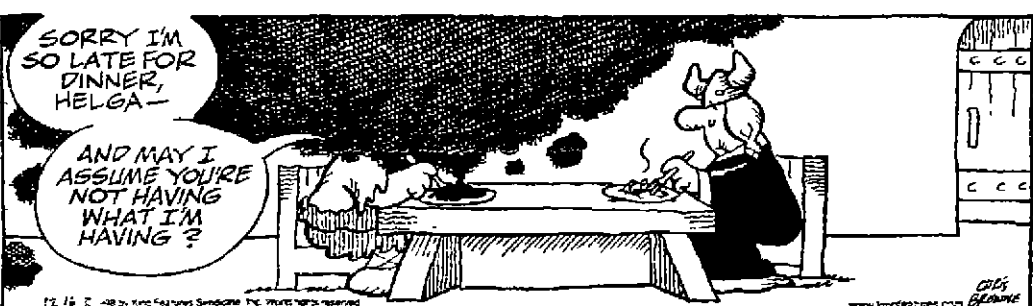
ANDY CAPP



ROSE IS ROSE



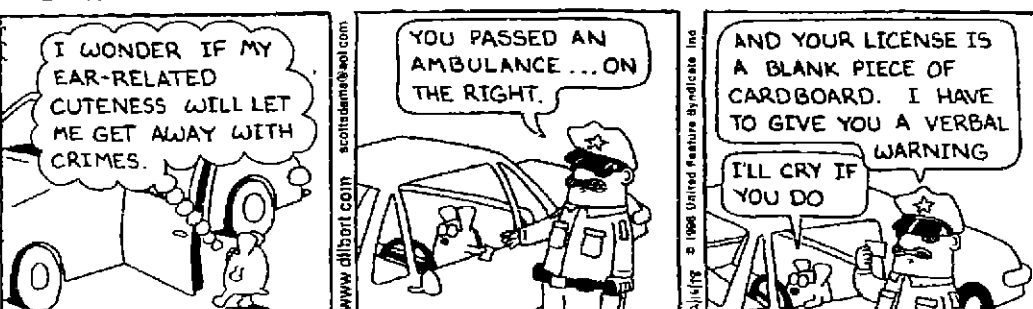
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE



MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM



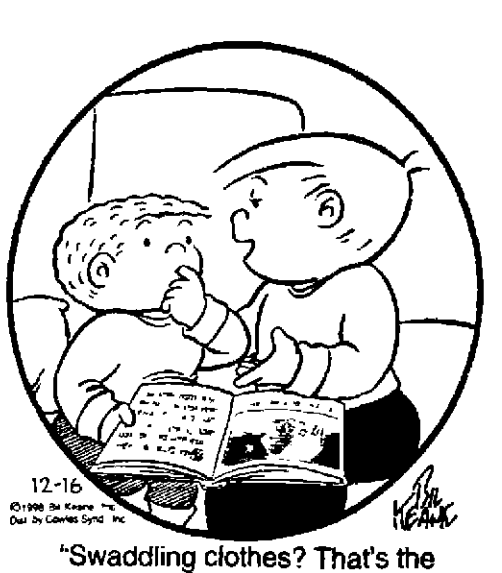
DILBERT



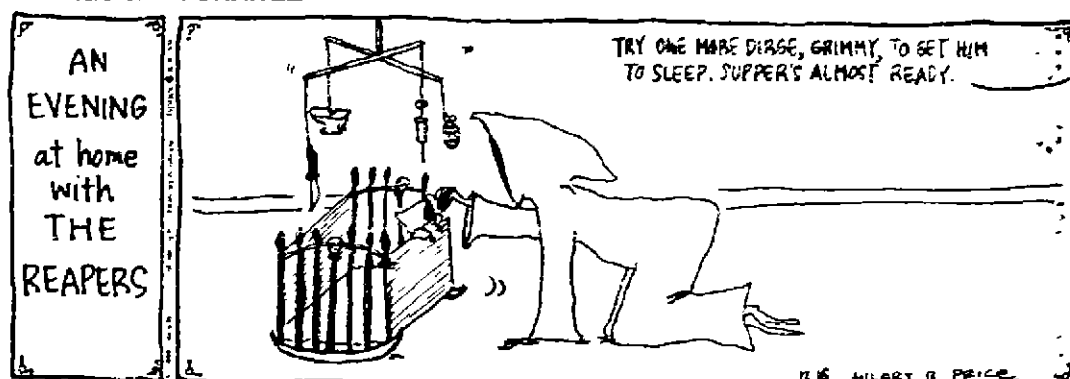
DENNIS THE MENACE



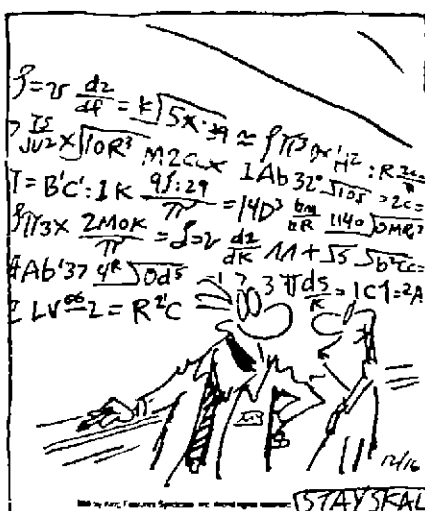
FAMILY CIRCUS



RHYMES WITH ORANGE



RALPH



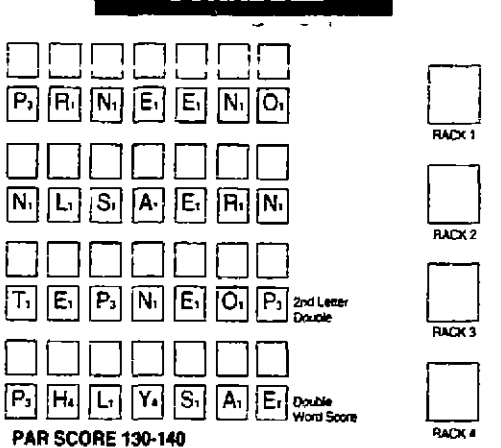
Today's Birthdays

Author Arthur C. Clarke is 81. Civil rights attorney Morris Dees is 62. Actress Joyce Bulifant is 61. Actress Liv Ullmann is 59. CBS news correspondent Lesley Stahl is 57. TV producer Steven Bochco is 55. Pop singer Benny Anderson (ABBA) is 52. Actor Ben Cross is 51. Rock singer-musician Billy Gibbons (ZZ Top) is 49. Actress Allison LaPlaca is 39.

I NEED HELP



SCRABBLE



PAR SCORE 130-140
by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2 to 7 letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word using scoring directions at right. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words are in The Official Scrabble Players Dictionary (Merrim-Webster) and OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW 12-16-98 © 1998 United Feature Syndicate Inc.

For solution, see Classified.

WORD SLEUTH

Words begining with "Oct"

LMLJHEBYVTQOLIG
ESDABYWTROPKIO
FVUDRBYWCEUSQCO
MKAPIDATCONFDTB
Z OCTOGENARIANXW
USQOCTNHLIGJTHF
DCAYTOCWAOVATCO
VTIPOTCONTLATCO
SQPNPLKAIHCFTEC
BZYNOILLITCOWCV
USRQDPNMREBOTCO

Tuesday's unlisted clue: HAWAII
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Wednesday's unlisted clue hint: 10th MONTH

Octad	Octal	Octavo	Octopi
Octagon	Octane	Octal	Octopod
Octagonal	Octave	Octillion	Octopus
Octahedral	Octava	Octogenarian	

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For solution, see Classified.

HOROSCOPE

For Thursday, Dec. 17, 1998
ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You benefit greatly from meeting a new group of people.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Although image is important to you, make sure you are not judging a situation at face value.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Try to shut off your inner narrator for a moment and just go with the flow.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Vicious revenge is not an appropriate response for a minor slighting.
LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22) You are exhausted by the close scrutiny of a boss, co-worker or relative.
VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22) Despite all your many achievements, you still aren't feeling fully satisfied with yourself.
LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Look outside of your own small sphere, and consider how you can make a difference.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Plan the next step in a project, as you might have to take it much sooner than you think.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Putting your ideas to music suddenly makes them quite magical.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19) You can't blame the system if you know you've been perpetuating it.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18) Take the greatest advantage of a stroke of good luck.
PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20) When signing legal documents, keep your eyes wide open for potential loopholes.

ACES

By Bobby Wolff

"My luck has changed," mused South after he saw dummy. "Not only do I get a favorable opening lead, but partner gives me tremendous trump support as well." Elated to get a free diamond finesse, South played low from dummy and captured East's queen with his ace. South led a trump toward dummy, and the bad news arrived. East had two trump tricks. East won and shifted to a club, trapping South's queen. South then had to lose a club, two trumps and the spade ace for one down. A better play at trick two would have been the spade king. But good defense would have triumphed. West would have refused one spade, won the next, and led another diamond. With no quick entry to discard a club from dummy, South would then have had to concede the same four tricks. South should play dummy's diamond jack at trick one. East covers and South wins, but when South knocks out West's spade ace (after West ducks once), South can return to his hand in diamonds to discard dummy's losing club. This limits the defenders to two trumps and a spade, and South has his 10 winners.

N.Y. TIMES CROSSWORD

No. 1104

ACROSS

1 Basketball Hall-of-Famer from the Celtics
8 A pop
11 About 1/2 of a mi.
14 Some patches
15 Oakland's county
17 Gentle pace
18 Greatly surpassed, with "over"
19 Mornings, for short
20 U.S. retailer since 1902
21 "General Hospital," e.g.
24 Bidding
25 "Trent's Last Case" author
28 Pick-me-up
32 Core
33 Grand achievement
34 Columnist Barrett
35 "Hold On Tight" rock grp
36 Be in arrears
37 It has springs
40 Being, e.g. Abbr.
41 Spoils shares?
43 Lose control of a car
44 Marker
45 Money in the bank say
47 "Petals in the Wind" author
48 Do a maître d's job
51 Cartoonist Peter
52 "U Can't Touch This" singer, 1990
55 Halloween decoration
57 Tenant farmer
58 Subdivision of a Roman legion
62 Pet carrier feature
63 Ruler's length
64 Jordan has a part in it. Abbr.
65 Reg. version
66 Noted children's book illustrator (one of six "middle C" people in this puzzle)

DOWN

1 Tease
2 ---Magnon
3 Nudge
4 Recorded
5 "Cheers" regular
6 Slaughter in baseball
7 J.F.K. arrival
8 Like some fog
9 Take flight to unite?
10 Least experienced
11 "Show Boat" composer
12 Notion in Normandy
13 ---Luck
14 Personal counselor
15 Military vehicle
16 Cayuga relative
17 Dome opening, in architecture
18 One overseeing monk-y business?
19 Sad
20 Approve
21 Sensed odors, old-style
22 More of a busybody
23 Around, so to speak
24 Old-time Met tenor
25 32-card game
26 Brooch part
27 Tack on
28 Angel
29 Melee memento
30 Musical speeds
31 Went off at an angle
32 Freshly
33 Back-to-work time Abbr.
34 "The Haunted Palace" poet
35 Newborn's place
36 Wedding dance
37 Biblical verb ending
38 Auction amount
39 Biblical verb ending

Answers to any three clues in this puzzle are available by touch-tone phone 1-800-420-5656 (95¢ per minute). Annual subscriptions are available for the best of Sunday crosswords from the last 50 years 1-888-7-ACROSS